

**Parks and Parkways Commission  
October 2, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott Discon and the secretary called roll.

Present: Scott Discon, Lee Frederick, Anne Marie Fargason, Nancy Clark, Jess Cole and Marilyn Osborne

Absent: Karin Crosby

Also Present: Louise Scott, Planning Director and Catherine Casanova, Landscape Inspector

Ms. Clark moved to adopt the minutes of September 11, 2017, seconded by Ms. Fargason and was unanimously approved.

**New Business:**

**Update Florida Street Streetscape Planting**

Mr. Discon provided a list of business names for the members to visit to encourage the owners to sign up for the planting of a Live Oak Tree. Ms. Scott stated with it being in the public realm and a small space to work with, the City Attorney had approved being able to plant trees on private property along Highway 190. Mr. Discon said the north side of Highway 190 should be handled by St. Tammany Parish and since that was not happening, the City was moving forward on the beautification. Ms. Scott said the signed version of Mayor Villere's letter, the signup sheet, and brochure of Trees Being Good for Business would be emailed and copied for the members. The property owners had already received a copy of the package and the visit was a follow up. With out of town owners, the members could discuss the project with the manager. The property owner would be responsible for providing water and maintenance for the tree.

The second step of the project after the tree planting would be the planting of decorative grasses where there was not sufficient space for a tree planting.

**Update Causeway Maintenance**

Mr. Discon was scheduled to meet with Larry, Maintenance Director for the Causeway, to determine what was the Causeway and what was the City maintenance responsibilities. He had been challenging the City to do more edging on the curbs for better maintenance. Ms. Clark said as per Mayor Villere the contract was to edge six times per year.

Ms. Fargason asked who was in charge of street sweeping up the ramp because she had noticed a lot of trash after the weekend. Ms. Scott said it was Causeway roadway. The City would be doing street sweeping soon. Mr. Discon said in the gray area the responsibility was pushed off on the other.

**Causeway Rain Garden**

Ms. Scott said the area under the Causeway overpass was a target area of the commission. When it was constructed, landscaping was included but it was not maintained. The bridge maintenance was now complete and Ms. Crosby had prepared a planting plan. There were discussions about the placement of public art and a sculpture garden that was rolled back in the budget cycle with funding for landscaping. The commission wanted to look at green infrastructure areas creating rain gardens and a teaching element. Ms. Scott, Ms. Casanova and Mr. Discon had met with Dana Brown, Landscape Architect, to request a proposal which was received over the weekend. She would speak with Ms. Brown about tweaking the proposal and would then distribute it to the commission. The proposal included meeting with

the commission, developing a master plan and implementation. It was structured into tasks with a public input process and implementation. The City group shared ideas that would come out of the public meetings. Any future infrastructure in the area would not have landscape placed that would have to be moved. Mr. Discon said it was discussed using a theme of celebration of water in their approach. Ms. Frederick suggested smart utilization of water. Ms. Scott said it was to make a statement for the gateway to the City.

Ms. Fargason said on the West Causeway up ramp a palm tree was growing under the roadway. She asked it be transplanted to a sunny area. Mr. Discon was concerned that it would not survive. Ms. Casanova was concerned about getting it out since it was so close to the top of the bridge without destroying the root system. Ms. Frederick said it would do weird things when it hit the bridge and suggested living it alone.

Ms. Fargason asked how would the planning and planting work with the roundabout. Ms. Scott said there was a conceptual plan and Ms. Brown would be provided a copy so she could design around the roadway. Ms. Fargason asked if the roundabout could be considered at Highway 22. Ms. Scott said both areas were being reviewed. There was room south of Monroe Street for planting. A master plan will consider all improvements.

#### **Update on the Edible Marigny Avenue Garden**

Ms. Casanova had no update at this time. The plan would be sent to Franklin Kyle for review. Ms. Clark suggested planting during the winter.

Ms. Frederick said number of new trees was less on the west side. Ms. Casanova said the medians were not as wide. Other considerations were site problems, locations for parades, and the Causeway designated locations for planting.

#### **Discussion of Lakefront Truck Parking in Reference to Resolution 15-01**

Ms. Scott said there was originally a recommendation to the Special Events Committee to protect the lakefront live oak trees. Ms. Spranley said there was an ordinance approved by the City Council but vetoed by Mayor Villere. Ms. Clark said the discussion began with a recent seawall repair and the contractor parking a concrete truck and two other trucks on the lakefront after 2” of rain. The commission asked to look at the previous resolution and include some contractor oversight for those working on the lakefront. The contractors needed to move seven wheelbarrows of material but he pulled on the lakefront because he did not have a wheelbarrow. The ordinance was about location of the events and not about tree protection. It was suggested to have the new board members review the resolution and discuss it at the next meeting. Ms. Spranley asked if the board members had discussed the issue with Mayor Villere when it was noticed and it was answered yes.

#### **Staff Update**

- Susanne Burley was the person who wrote the newspaper article and she was in agreement to being an educational speaker. Ms. Casanova asked about topics. It was suggested to discuss trees and flood mitigation and water management gardens. The staff would coordinate with her schedule.
- Cemetery – the Public Works Department was moving the pile of dirt and would find a new location. Mr. Discon asked about the bamboo. Ms. Scott said the City was looking for a new Landscape Architect for the project. Ms. Clark said cleanup was needed along the Trace which was where the bamboo was located. Ms. Scott asked if the cleanup was to remove the bamboo out of the evergreens that could be done now. The City

could contract a Landscape Contractor and would ask Ms. Clark to meet them on the site.

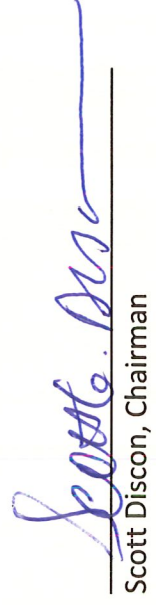
- It had been proposed to Cleco to allow the installation of mason bee, bat and bluebird boxes on the poles and the City was waiting for a response. Ms. Scott suggested getting scouts to take care of the bluebird boxes. This could be a project to have the scouts construct and install them.
- Whelan property – Ms. Scott had reached out to the Whelans. She had clarified with the Public Works Department and Mayor Villere the ability to plant and there was no hold on the property in front of the Whelan house. The City would plant as well as requesting Mr. Whelan plant the area. The City could coordinate some plant material with him. Mr. Discon said this would include Carroll Street and Ms. Scott answered yes. There was a live oak tree inside of the fence that would canopy out. Mr. Discon said there was a need to plant two oak trees to recreate a new canopy on Carroll Street.

Mr. Discon moved to open the agenda for an oak tree discussion, seconded by Ms. Osborne and was unanimously approved.

Mr. Discon said after Hurricane Katrina, Bay St. Louis recreated a streetscape and Carroll Street had houses missing trees to create a canopy. Ms. Clark said Hurricane Bill began the tree destruction. Mr. Discon suggested targeting those streets with the street tree program. Ms. Clark suggested adopting Carroll Street for the next 2-3 years to install trees. Ms. Scott said this year there were approximately 200 trees planted in the Street Tree Program. Ms. Scott suggested a note on the water bills and in the ebriefs targeting a few blocks at a time. Ms. Frederick suggested an area by the Mandeville Elementary School, Coffee and Monroe Streets and Marigny Avenue.

Ms. Clark moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Fargason and was unanimously approved.

  
Lori Spranley, Secretary

  
Scott Discon, Chairman  
Parks and Parkways Commission